



February 2006

E- Newsletter

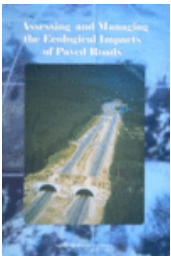
Welcome to Issue #3:

Inside Transportation News is a vehicle for sharing relevant information with transportation and planning professionals and other National Park Service partners.

Visitor Vehicle Air & Noise Emissions Studies at Cape Cod National Seashore and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area – Clay Reheman, [John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center](#)

The Volpe Center has completed two reports on the air quality and noise emissions associated with current roadway traffic in National Park units: "[Visitor Vehicle Air and Noise Emissions Study: Cape Cod NS](#)," and "[Visitor Vehicle Air and Noise Emissions Study: Santa Monica Mountains NRA](#)." These reports include analyses of baseline visitor vehicle impact on air quality using the Environmental Protection Agency MOBILE6.2 model, and on noise using the Federal Highway Administration's Traffic Noise Model. The findings provide a baseline measure from which the air quality and noise impacts resulting from alternative transportation system improvements at Cape Cod and Santa Monica can be addressed.

Critter Crossing Update – Katie McDermott, Technology Transfer Director, North Carolina State University



Katie McDermott of NC State has alerted us to a new publication related to the growing interest in wildlife and highways. "[Assessing and Managing the Ecological Impacts of Paved Roads](#)" (National Academies Press, 2005), provides guidance on ways to reconcile the different goals of road development and environmental conservation. It identifies the ecological effects of roads that can be evaluated in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of roads and offers several recommendations to help better understand and manage ecological impacts of paved roads.

Ford Motor Company and National Park Foundation – Joni Gallegos, National Park Service

Since 2001, the [National Park Transportation Scholar Program](#) has provided an opportunity for parks to apply, on a competitive basis, for expert assistance from transportation professionals on a variety of issues. This program is a partnership between the National Park Foundation, the National Park Service and the Eno Transportation Foundation. It is made possible through the generous support of the Ford Motor Company, a Proud Partner of America's National Parks. The accomplishments of six transportation scholars in the past year were highlighted at the recent annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board. For a summary, please contact jim_evans@nps.gov.

Ford also sponsors the Proud Partner Transportation Interpreters who work on the buses, trains, and ferries that make up some of the alternative transportation systems in the parks. In 2005, 21 park units received interns through this program.

Toolkit for Rural Community Coordinated Transportation Services – Frank Corrado, P.E., PTOE, Traffic Operations Engineer of the Federal Lands Highway Program, Eastern Division

Frank Corrado brought to our attention an upcoming telephone conference series, or "T- Classes", by the National Transit Institute in cooperation with the Transportation Research Board and the American Public Transportation Association. On February 9, 2006 from 2- 3:30pm Eastern Time, the discussion will examine strategies and practices used to coordinate rural transportation services. These T- classes are free, but you must register to participate. For more information, go to "[Toolkit for Rural Community Coordinated Transportation Services](#)."

Financial Proforma – Melissa Laube, [John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center](#), Cambridge, Massachusetts

One of the critical concerns of the National Park Service is whether individual parks with transit systems can demonstrate a stable and reliable revenue stream sufficient to sustain and improve the operations, maintenance, and re- capitalization of park transit services at a reasonable cost to the user. In response, the NPS has developed a financial assessment process and reporting tool, or "[Financial Proforma](#)," to help parks assess the financial performance of an existing or proposed alternative transportation system. The Volpe Center, the developer of the Financial Proforma, is available to assist any park that desires to use this tool. The benefits of using this tool include the opportunity to identify the short and long term financial requirements of operating and maintaining a transit system, advance warning of potential financial problems, and a way to plan for varying level of service.

Successes in Stewardship Newsletter – Shari Schaftlein, Federal Highway Administration

The January issue of FHWA's "[Successes in Stewardship](#)" newsletter is available. This issue focuses on context sensitive solutions, an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist. It does so with a collaborative, interdisciplinary process that involves stakeholders early.

Highways & Habitat: Managing Habitat Connectivity and Landscape Permeability for Wildlife – Peter Singleton, U.S. Forest Service – Pacific Northwest Office

The Forest Service has produced a non- technical publication on the highways and landscape permeability work conducted along Interstate 90 at Snoqualmie Pass, Washington titled "[Highways and Habitat: Managing Habitat Connectivity and Landscape Permeability for Wildlife](#)."

Transportation Planning Excellence Awards – Jody McCullough, Federal Highway Administration

The Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration have announced a call for nominations due by February 28, 2006. These awards will recognize outstanding initiatives across the nation to develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices. Please check out "[Transportation Planning Excellence Awards](#)" for details.

Inside Transportation News reflects a compilation of research, reports, and opinions from a variety of authors and partners. The opinions, reports, and research may not reflect the policies and views of the National Park Service.